

Titus

Bible Commentary 2021

by

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Titus 1

1:1-3

Paul introduced himself as a servant of God. This is something every Christian has in common with Paul, and Paul tried to relate to every man who called on the name of the Lord. We are servants of God. Paul was also an apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul listed apostles as part of the gifts which God gave to the church. Do we still have apostles today? Some people would say no. Some people believe all the apostles passed away after the Bible was written. This is not the impression I get when I read the Bible. My belief is that to this day we have apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers in the church. Why would we need pastors but not prophets? Why would we need teachers but not apostles? Why would we need an evangelist and not a pastor? These gifts are all needed in the church today as much as they were needed in the first century church. Having said that, not everyone who calls himself a pastor, evangelist, prophet, or apostle is actually what they claim. There are many people claiming titles for themselves but have no clue what a true prophet or apostle or pastor really is.

I believe what we have written in the Holy Bible is complete for the current dispensation we are living in. I don't think any man can add to what is written in the Bible.

Beware of false apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers who try to add to God's word or take away from it. There are a lot of cults who create their own version of the Bible or who write their own Bibles like the Mormons and the Jehovah Witness cults.

God promised eternal life before the world began. He made a plan to save mankind before he ever created man. God mapped out the story of the gospel and made sure everything took place so men could simply believe God's word and be saved. God's Word is Jesus Christ. He is the Word made flesh. He died on the cross in our place. They buried him in a rich man's tomb. On the third day he rose from the dead and was seen by many people, including his chosen apostles who carried the testimony of his resurrection.

God revealed his plan of salvation through humble men preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He chose to reveal himself in a humble and simple manner. He called men who were nothing in the world to be his ambassadors and proclaim the gospel that Christ died for our sins. He is now risen. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father and he lives to make intercession for us. One day the Lord Jesus

will return to this earth and establish his kingdom over the nations of this earth. Once that time is complete then everything will be completed in the New Jerusalem. God will make a new heavens and a new earth.

Jesus Christ is God. He is God the Son. He is the Son of God. God is three in one. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He reveals himself in the roles of prophet, priest, and king. He has also revealed himself to this world through Israel, the church, and through a kingdom which will reign over the nations one day.

The Lord searches for those who will trust in him completely. Those who abide in the gospel are overcomers. Overcomers are given to eat of the hidden manna in **Revelation 2:17**. That hidden manna is kingdom authority. Those who overcome will reign and rule with Christ. That kingdom authority is available to us now if we believe the gospel and are saved.

1:4-5

Titus received his marching orders from Paul. Paul left Titus in Crete to set things in order and ordain elders in different cities. Titus had the responsibility to oversee different churches in Crete. This was a huge responsibility, as we see in the next few verses.

He addressed Titus as his son after the common faith. Perhaps Paul was directly involved in bringing Titus to the saving faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. He extended grace, mercy, and peace from God to Titus. This was a different greeting than what is seen in other letters of Paul. Usually we see grace and peace, but here there was grace, mercy, and peace.

It is work to set things in order in churches. Churches do not automatically organize themselves and set everything in the proper place. Men are called by God to lead, organize, and put things in their proper order in the church. Notice how important it is that churches are set in order. This reminds me of another verse "*let everything be done decently and in order*". God's kingdom is very organized. Look at how precise and specific God's instructions were to Noah in building the ark which saved him and his family. Think of how specific God's instructions were for Moses to be build the tabernacle in the wilderness. God has not changed. The church also has specific order in it which if it is not kept opens the doors for the enemy to bring in chaos and confusion and hurt people.

God's people are compared to a flock of sheep. In order for sheep to be provided for and protected there needs to be a shepherd to keep the flock orderly and in the right place at the right time. They are led out to green pastures and made to lie down beside quiet waters. This takes work and dedication for the shepherd. There are men God calls to do this job for the church.

When these men do not do their job then the whole church suffers. Sheep cannot lead themselves. They need a strong leader who will take the oversight. May God give us true men of God in these last days who will lead the flock to spiritual provision and protection. May these shepherds point us to God who is our portion forever.

1:6-9

Paul provided Titus with a checklist for evaluating if someone was qualified to be a bishop. A bishop was an overseer. He looked after people. In the context of the church he was a preacher and administrator. Let's take a look at this list of qualifications.

Blameless. Surely that did not mean the man was perfect. Rather, it meant when he was accused of wrongdoing it didn't stick. People like to accuse a man in leadership of different things. Look at the history of Moses and Israel. But the accusations do not stick to the man of God. God will defend his man. Blameless also means the man's conscience is at peace because he believes the gospel and knows his sins are forgiven because of the work of Christ.

Husband of one wife. That sounds plain enough, but some see this as meaning that a man cannot be a preacher if he was divorced in the past. A husband of one wife, in their definition, means he only had in his life one wife. But this logic seems flawed. I would rather err on the side that this was a statement against polygamy. Also, it would mean the man cannot be married and also have a girlfriend on the side. That would definitely disqualify him.

How can someone expect to lead a church if he cannot lead his own house. If children do not obey their father then why should a church follow his direction. This basically means the father did not raise his children with any discipline and did not care about his children enough to correct them. If this is the case the man won't care enough about enforcing order in church either. Not a good candidate for leadership if a man did not lead his family.

Stewardship is very important for a church leader. We need to be faithful in every matter, whether financial, resources, or people. We need to understand the importance of being a good steward. This is an intricate part of leadership. A man who cannot be trusted with money cannot be trusted to lead a church.

Self willed. This means his primary motivation is self gratification or that he is stubborn and does not listen to others. This goes along with the rest of the list with being angry or a striker. Someone who wants to fight and argue does not need to be a leader in the church.

Wine. Paul did not expressly forbid drinking alcohol. But he said if a man was likely to drink alcohol he probably won't make a good leader in the church.

Money. Is the man motivated by making a paycheck or serving people? Filthy lucre is an old English way of saying the man loved money more than people.

The next list goes along with the thought of loving people: hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate.

Can he remember the gospel? Can he remember to preach the gospel when he stands in the pulpit or does he just ramble all over the place telling stories? If a man cannot remember the simple facts of the gospel he does not need to be up there preaching and leading the church.

He cannot be a coward. He needs to be confident enough to resist people who contradict the gospel. He needs to know how to resist people trying to take over his class or sermon.

This is quite a list of character qualities. I don't know if I have ever met someone who could check off everything on this list.

How can I be saved and know I am going to heaven when I die? Believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Repent of your sins and put your faith in Jesus. Call on the name of Jesus and be saved.

1:10-14

Paul told Titus there were many who were unruly, vain talkers, and deceivers. This was especially true with the religious crowd. This should not surprise anyone who has attended church for a while. It is full of people who are unruly and vain talkers. Notice also this word "deceivers". This means there are people in church who are used by demons to spread lies in the church. Whenever I see the word "deceivers" I immediately remember what Jesus said about the devil. Jesus said the devil is the father of liars. And in Revelation the destination of all liars is the lake of fire. This tells me that any place people gather for something religious you are guaranteed to run into people who are either possessed or influenced by evil spirits. Demons are drawn to religion like bees to a honey comb. Religion is the devil's bread and butter. More people have been murdered over religion than anything else.

Paul told Titus to stop these unruly people because they could completely subvert whole churches. In those days churches were in peoples' homes. They would go into a house of people and pretend to be preachers in order to make get money. It was all about the money and what they could get out of it. This is a sign you are probably dealing with a false preacher if the first thing they want to do is take up a collection or sell their stuff in the lobby. Not everyone. Got to be careful not to judge too harshly but beware. Listen carefully. Be alert that you are not deceived by unruly and vain talkers and deceivers.

What was Paul's answer for these slow bellies? He said to rebuke them sharply. Do not spare their feelings. Correct them openly and publicly and drive them out with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

There are a few men I remember from years past who were faithful to do this in the church. One was David Wilkerson. The other one was Dave Hunt. They were both faithful to correct, rebuke, and exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Sound doctrine is the gospel. Christ died for our sins. He was buried in a tomb. On the third day he rose from the dead. Put your faith in Jesus and be saved today.

1:15-16

What does it mean? To the pure all things are pure? This reminds me of what Jesus said about eating food. He said the kind of food a man ate did not make him clean or unclean. But what was in the heart of a man made him clean or unclean. I think Paul was saying the same thing here. If a man has a pure heart and his motives are love for God and fellow man than he will see the world around him in that light. Eating different foods will not make him defiled. Having a pure heart means that what the man does will be pure. From the teaching of the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul we learn that what comes from the heart is what really counts. Outward religion does not count. An inward, heartfelt relationship with God is what really matters. Sometimes a person has a pure heart and may say or do things that to an outsider would appear to be non-Christian. But what makes something we do pure is why we do it. In this sense, many things which people do may seem on the outside to be non-Christian but are done with the right motive and purpose and are therefore pure. I can think of plenty of examples but don't want to get sidetracked by that at the moment.

Paul said that to someone who is defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure. If a wicked man puts money in the offering plate it is as if he put a piece of rotting flesh in the offering plate. If an unbeliever sings in church choir it is just as evil as if someone went to a satanic rock concert and flashed the devil sign. What matters is what is in a man's heart. Even unbelievers can be religious but all of their righteous acts are as filthy rags in the sight of God.

How do we become pure? How can we make sure our heart is pure and that we are right with God? You cannot earn God's favor by doing good works. The only way we can be made right with God is to believe the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus Christ is straight forward and plain enough so that anyone can understand, receive, and believe. Christ died for our sins on the cross at Calvary. He took our place and received the punishment for our sins. God's wrath was poured out on Jesus at Calvary. He took our place. When we trust in the work of Christ then we receive God's righteousness. God imputes to us the righteousness of Christ. Just as Jesus took our sins on himself he placed his own righteousness on us. This exchange was made at Calvary. After Jesus died he was buried in a tomb. On the third day after his death he rose from the dead. His resurrection proved that he is the Son of God and God the Son. He is one of the three persons in the trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is three in one.

If we reject that God is three in one we are left with Jesus being only a man. If he was only a man then he could not have died in our place because he would have been a sinner like everyone else. Only a sinless sacrifice is acceptable to the holy God. Jesus had to be sinless in order for this sacrifice on Calvary to be acceptable. If he was not the Son of God then his sacrifice would not be enough.

But Jesus is the Son of God. He died as a man upon Calvary. He is fully man. He is fully God. He is the God Man, Jesus Christ. God is three in one. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Read **1 Corinthians 15** for more information about the gospel Paul preached and also the resurrection. Paul went into a lot of detail about resurrection in that chapter. Our entire faith as a Christian rests completely on the foundation that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day.

Titus 2

2:1-2

Paul continued his instructions to Titus on building the church. When a man of God preaches his message should produce fruit in those listening. If a church is not producing fruit there is something wrong. Either the preacher is missing the mark or the people are spiritually dead. Or, it could be a demonic stronghold over the church preventing the preacher's message from reaching the hearts of the people. In that case it takes more than one lone pastor to break through. It sometimes takes all the gifts of God to impact a church: it takes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. A lone pastor can not get the job done in certain areas where the ground is hard and the enemy has long held sway over people.

Here Paul told Titus to speak things which become sound doctrine. He began with what should be fruit in aged men. They should be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. This is the

result of the gospel in aged men. The result of the gospel in aged men should be a serious mind, knowing that eternity that is approaching, they should be careful with the things of the world, and should be able to repeat the gospel. Do they love others? Are they patient?

Here is a good list for evaluating whether you are doing your job as a preacher. Are the older men producing this kind of fruit? It might not always be the preacher's fault, as I said. If the aged men are not producing fruit there is a problem. Check your message. Pray and ask the Lord to show you if there is a demonic stronghold over the church which you cannot fight off by yourself. If there is then you need to pray God will send you an apostle or prophet or evangelist or someone else who will help break the back of the enemy in that church.

2:3-5

Titus was instructed to preach the gospel so those in the church would bear specific fruit in their lives. We covered the fruit for aged men in the previous verses. In these verses Paul covered the fruit aged women should produce.

Aged women should have holy behavior. What does this mean? I know some churches define holiness as long hair and dresses. But what is holiness? It is not focused on outward appearance or on outward religion. Holiness is a fear of the Lord in the heart of a person. They will shun evil and pursue a lifestyle that is pleasing to God.

The next item is false accusation. Aged women should not spread negative reports about people. This seems to be an issue this group have had since the beginning. A Christian woman should be aware that slander and false accusation is a temptation the enemy will bait them with. Stay away from gossip, slander, and false accusation. This reminds me of the story about Jezebel how she had Nabal killed through false accusation.

Wine is an issue. The aged women should avoid alcohol as much as possible. Again, there is no express word of forbidding a person from drinking wine, but an admonition that they are "not given to much wine".

They are to be teachers of good things. What good things? They are to teach younger women to be sober, love their husbands, love their children. Women were to be taught to be caretakers of their husbands and children and homes. They manage the household affairs. They take care of the people in the household.

What is the reason why aged women should have this behavior? That the word of God be not blasphemed.

We have gone far astray from these basic principles of living. Men and women both no longer hold their roles in family, work, and society. As a result homes and families are broken and chaos reigns, not only in society, but also in the church.

We need to return as much as possible to these teachings. We need to recover our proper place and roles as men, women, husbands, wives, and families. This is the only hope society has that the church will return to its proper place of showing the way and being the example.

2:6-8

When Paul told Titus to teach others how to act and live it was for a purpose. What was the purpose? Paul tried to make sure those under Titus would be protected from slander. Who is the slanderer? Who is the accuser of the brethren? The devil is the accuser. Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Paul tried to show Titus how to protect himself and also those who would believe the gospel through his ministry. We protect ourselves by living contrary to the devil and the world system. We do this by being sober minded, showing good works, having good doctrine that is not self-serving or twisting scripture to turn us into a self-worshiper, by being serious, sincere, and having sound speech that cannot be condemned.

This last part about sound speech stands out to me. It is in contrast to how I hear the young generation of preachers conduct themselves. I heard there was a movement of young preachers who would curse or use graphic detail of immorality in their sermons. This is not sound speech. It can be condemned by the devil. It gives the devil opportunity to speak evil against them. Preachers should know better, but evidently a lot don't know any better than to cuss and raise a ruckus. Pity the men who are this ignorant.

All these instructions about how we should conduct ourselves was for our good, protection, and so we can be successful in preaching the gospel and making disciples. If we do not follow the pattern in the Bible we open ourselves to spiritual attack from the devil. Let's be smart and obey what the Bible said for us to do.

The gospel is plain. Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Call on the name of Jesus and be saved from the destination of those who do not repent. The final destination for every unrepentant sinner is a lake of fire. God made a way by the finished work of Christ for everyone to escape that fate if we will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2:9-10

Paul covered aged men, aged women, young women, and young men. Paul covered another group who lived in the common household of his day. Servants. Also known as slaves.

In modern America there isn't slavery but these same ideas and principles can be transferred to the employee and employer relationship. The idea here was to not talk back to your boss, to be faithful, and to not steal. Those three ideas under gird or explore the relationship an employee has towards his employer.

I remember reading a tract years ago called "working hard or hardly working". It was a tract that was published by Last Days Ministries. The idea was that Christians should put their faith into practice in the work place. We spend most of our lives in our employment environment. What better place to demonstrate the virtues and advantages of living as a Christian. Christians should always be the most hard working, the most honest, and the most faithful employee. Employers should be able to easily see the value and advantage of employing someone who is a Christian.

By living like this at work we will "adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things". This means we give the Lord a good name among people who are unbelievers. We can preach the gospel to people by

working hard, showing up on time for work, not complaining, volunteering to do extra work, and for always doing our best job. If we do this we will be a good witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

What happens if we don't do this? Then we leave the devil an opportunity to make accusations against Christians, against the church, and against the gospel. People will always use an unfaithful or lazy Christian as an excuse to dismiss the claims of the gospel. Don't give that opportunity. Let your life back up the truth in the gospel of Jesus Christ. You never know! Somebody's eternal salvation may depend on you being faithful in your job.

2:11-15

Paul preached the gospel and also taught the practical effect of the gospel in a believer's life. He also included in these verses the doctrine of Christ's return. He showed that a Christian's life will be filled with good works. You really have almost everything a preacher needs in these few verses. He ended this by telling Titus to "speak, exhort, and rebuke with all authority." The man of God has authority from God to speak, exhort, and rebuke. This is the business of every sincere Christian. We need to speak, exhort, and rebuke with all authority.

God's grace which brought salvation appeared to all men. How is this possible? I do not know but it is plain that every man is accountable for knowing the gospel of Jesus Christ. The grace which came in the gospel taught the believer to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. There is real holiness in the life of the Christian. There is practical holiness where the born again Christian has an aversion to ungodliness and worldly lusts. If you meet someone who claims to be a Christian but can cuss, take God's name in vain, get drunk, and sleep around? What do you think? Is he a Christian? I don't think so. He might be religious but he is not a Christian.

The blessed hope is the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ will come back to earth. The church will be raptured. Jesus will return to earth and establish his kingdom over the nations. It will happen. There is nothing that can stop this from happening. It is written in the Bible and it will come to pass. Best idea we could have is to prepare for this. How? Believe the gospel! Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day.

Jesus gave himself. He took our place. We are the guilty ones and deserve punishment but Jesus took our place. We can benefit from this by believing, receiving, and calling on the name of Jesus Christ. There is nothing else you or I can do to earn our way into heaven and escape hell. Believe the gospel. That is all we can do.

When we believe and are filled with the Holy Spirit we will be zealous of good works. We will want to be around other Christians who are serving, helping, proclaiming, and spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christians are peculiar people. We have been called out of darkness and are now translated into the kingdom of God's Son Jesus Christ.

Titus 3

3:1-3

Why should I be gentle and meek toward unbelievers around me? Because I was an unbeliever. God pulled me out of the ditch and had mercy on me. Now he told me to do the same. Have mercy on people. Be gentle. Be meek. Don't speak evil of people. Don't point out the faults of people. May the Lord help me remember this.

Why? Because it makes it much harder to love my neighbor when I train myself to focus on his faults. It is much harder to live and work and relate to people when I focus on their shortcomings.

Paul taught us how to relate to others. He put this in the context of principalities and power and magistrates. These are all words that point to government that we live under. Have a humble attitude toward leadership in city, county, state, and federal authority. We are to be humble toward people in those positions no matter if those people are Christian or not. We need to be ready to every good work.

I remember when I was a young Christian and Bill Clinton was president. I was living at a ministry home with a street preacher. He was a good street preacher, but he could easily slip off the deep end with putting down the president and pointing out all the sins of the president. It made me wonder if he read passages in the Bible like this. One day I got so tired of listening to it I went upstairs and started to pray for President Clinton. An amazing thing happened. As I started to pray I began to weep for the President. I had a genuine feeling of pity toward President Clinton. I am a nobody but that the day I prayed for the President I knew God heard my prayers.

Stop focusing on faults, mistakes, and things that divide us. Start praying for others especially people who are in leadership in this country.

These people need to hear the gospel. We should pray and have an attitude of humility toward those who are in authority. This is the example Paul the apostle taught us. It is the same attitude the Lord Jesus had when he stood before Pilate. He was humble and gave an example for us.

Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He rose again on the third day. Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus is saved and born again. Cry out to Jesus and have your name written down in the book of life.

3:4-7

When Jesus died on Calvary he took our place. God did this for us. There is nothing we can do to earn God's favor by good works. There is nothing we can do to erase our sins. This is why the Lord Jesus died on the cross. Now we are justified by God's grace. God's grace is demonstrated through the work Jesus accomplished in his death, burial, and resurrection. God's kindness and love toward us appeared in our Lord Jesus Christ. He saved us from our sins. He is our savior. Now we have become heirs of eternal life. As a result of putting our faith in what God did we become heirs of eternal life. This inward work in our hearts is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. He applies the shed blood of Jesus to our lives and makes us alive in the spirit. From beginning to end this is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Man cannot find spiritual life through works of righteousness. Men created false religions from the beginning with Cain. Cain had a false religion whereby he worshiped the god of his own imagination. He had an idea of who God was that he created for himself. And when the real God in heaven rejected Cain's false god Cain was angry enough to commit murder. The man of flesh persecutes and murders the man of the spirit. Why? Because a price must be paid for sin. When men reject God's plan of solving the sin problem they are left to figure out a way to solve the sin problem for themselves. The answer is always written in blood. It is written in the blood of Jesus, or it is written in the blood of killing other people. This is the entire history of the human race in a few sentences.

God opened my eyes to see his son Jesus. He opened my ears to hear his voice, and he gave me a heart to believe the truth in the gospel. I believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. There is no longer any blood on my hands anymore. God has washed me clean and made me whole in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

In what way do you think you will approach God? By your good deeds? By your good works? No, you will be judged by your works and sentenced to hellfire. The only hope any of us has is to be justified by the grace of God in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3:8-11

Paul outlined what is profitable for Christians to do and also what to avoid in church.

We avoid foolish questions, family trees, contentions, and arguments about the Bible. These conversations are unprofitable and vain. This tells me that most of the modern movement of having a "conversation" is pointless. We are not really taught in the Bible to have "conversations" with people who do not believe the Bible or who want to argue about the Bible. Instead, we avoid foolish questions. We avoid arguments over trivial matters or non-essential doctrines.

A heretic is someone who denies essential doctrines which include the gospel of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. If someone rejects the resurrection he is a heretic. Paul gave this kind of a person a couple of chances to repent but then they are to be "rejected". This probably means driving them out of Christian fellowship. Those people are *"subverted, sinneth, being condemned of himself"*. It is not the fault of the church if this person persists as a heretic. We can only lead people to the living waters; we can't make them drink.

"Affirming constantly" sounds like we need to be consistent, persistent, and relentless in repeating the truth of God's word. We keep reminding ourselves and preach to one another God's word. People who want to argue or sow strife are probably heretics. They are used by the devil to take attention away from the Lord Jesus and keep it on the person causing the ruckus. Mark these trouble makers. They are wolves in sheep's clothing.

Christians are to be careful to maintain good works. We need to serve others in a consistent manner. Pray and ask the Lord to show you how you can help serve other people. The Lord will open doors for you to be a blessing to other people.

3:12-15

Paul mentioned once again the importance of maintaining good works for necessary uses and he ended this letter with "*grace be with you all*". Grace and works walk hand in hand through all of Paul's letters. Grace is the most potent motivation anyone can have for good works. Good works is a lifestyle of being Christ centered and loving your neighbor as you already love yourself.

Notice Paul was the point of contact for many people in the church. He gave instructions on how to help his brothers conduct ministry. He wanted to help those who proclaimed the gospel. Who have we helped to further the gospel? Do we support a ministry, a church, or a missionary who preaches the gospel? I want to be a part of supporting those who preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every part of the body of Christ needs to work together to reach the lost while we have time. The night is coming when no one will be able to work any longer.

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